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# California State Prison Sacramento

## New Folsom

On October 15, 2009, the Sacramento County Grand Jury toured the California State Prison Sacramento. This facility is commonly called New Folsom. This tour was pursuant to Penal Code Section 919(b), which states, "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county."

The warden and members of his administrative staff met the grand jury. There was a brief discussion about the history of the prison, the different types of inmates housed, the variety of services provided, and the classification for housing and work assignments. The staff has two main concerns: the safety of staff and inmates, and the medical/mental care provided to inmates.

The briefing was informative and highlighted the wide variety of housing and program needs by inmates. The different types of inmates are:

- General Population (GP)
- Security Housing Unit (SHU)
- Administrative Segregation (AD-SEG)
- Inmates with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Mental Health Services Delivery Systems (MHSDS), which includes the
  - Correctional Clinical Case Management Systems (CCCMS) and the Enhanced Out-Patient (EOP) Inmates
- Inmates with cancer

New Folsom opened in October 1986. The mission of the prison at that time was to house maximum-security inmates. These inmates have the highest classification score within the prison system. They are considered the most dangerous and may never get out of prison. Over the years the mission of the prison has changed, not only to house maximum-security inmates, but also to house inmates within the department's MHSDS. The medical staff classifies the inmates as either CCCMS or EOP. The CCCMS inmate is normally housed with the general population and functions satisfactorily with or without medications. The EOP inmate is on medication and is placed in his own housing unit. Correctional and medical staff monitors both types of inmates.

Each inmate sent by the courts to the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections



and Rehabilitation (CDCR), while at a reception center, will be classified and seen by a group of correctional professionals called a Classification Committee. This committee will assign the inmate points as they relate to numerous factors regarding the inmate's life. These points are utilized to determine the correct housing, work assignment, educational needs, and threat status of the inmate. CDCR has four levels with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 4 the highest. New Folsom houses all levels within the prison walls. Level 1 and 2 inmates perform low risk, minimum-security work such as outside work crews and community work. Level 3 inmates perform work within the walls of the prison such as laundry, food services, and janitorial services. Level 4 inmates are placed within higher custody living areas. When they commit a serious rule violation, they may be removed from the GP and placed in AD-SEG or SHU.

The AD-SEG unit is utilized when an inmate commits a serious crime within the prison and is sentenced to a set time away from the general population. The SHU is utilized when an inmate commits a more serious crime within the prison or while in AD-SEG, or if he is a validated gang member, or his presence within the GP would jeopardize the safety and security of the inmates or staff.

Upon the completion of the briefing, the grand jury was escorted through the prison on a walking tour. The grounds of New Folsom are well kept, reflecting one of the vocational programs provided to inmates.

There are three main facilities (A, B, C) surrounded by razor wire approximately 12 feet high, followed by an electrified fence, followed by another 12 foot high razor wire fence. All of the buildings are made of concrete. Each facility has its own yard surrounded by the buildings. The GP inmates utilize these yards. Some of the facilities have individual yards, located within the individual buildings. These yards are used by the AD-SEG, SHU, and inmates with special medical needs. Most yards have a variety of sports equipment, basketball hoops, handball walls, and fitness exercise bars.

The cells within the housing units are 8 feet by 16 feet, crowded with personal items, clothing and food items. Some of the cells have televisions that have been purchased by the inmates. Some of the housing units have community televisions. Most cells have a bunk bed unit, shelves, a small desk, and a stainless steel sink and toilet.

The C Facility gym has been converted into a dormitory that houses Level 1 and 2 inmates. The capacity of this dorm is 175 GP inmates, living on bunk beds or triple bunk style beds.

The shower area and toilet area are open and the inmates take turns utilizing these facilities. This dorm is very cramped and appears to be a very uncomfortable living situation.

The staff at California State Prison Sacramento is very knowledgeable about their particular jobs and have a difficult task in performing their daily activities, which are to provide safety and appropriate medical/mental services for inmates.